

Re: Database design

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- *From:* "BruceM" <bamoob@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Mon, 1 May 2006 09:18:18 -0400
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Responses inline.

"javagirl" <javagirl@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:C5EDC97C-E56D-436F-8601-B63E7FDD7ED1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

"BruceM" wrote:

A few questions:

Is each session related to a client? Can a session involve several clients?

Yes, each session is related to a single client, or so I anticipate.

I wondered if there could be a many-to-many relationship between Sessions and Clients. If not, that simplifies things a bit.

I assume that OrderMast is related to a client. In other words, a client places an order. If you look up a client, I expect you would want to be able to see a listing of that client's orders. Do you need to keep track of Session information in OrderDetails? If you keep track of sessions, you will also be able to keep track of Products, which are related to sessions.

That's what I haven't quite figured out. tblProduct is MY output. It would catalogue the negatives and/or digital files. I'm not sure yet if this is going to be overkill; My intention is only to catalogue media that meets my

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professional standards as a photographer so that when a client requests prints, I don't have to weed through the unsatisfactory shots to find what I want. I'm working on a more thorough description of my tables, but may not have that done for a little while yet.

If Product is for your information you may not want to include Product information in Orders (or OrderDetails). A few questions to ask yourself: Can a single order include output from several sessions? Do you want to catalogue by Client or by Session? If the former, you may want Product to be related to Client AND to Session. I have to say, though, that this kind of relationship pushes the limits of my knowledge. Once you have decided on what exactly you need to do it would probably be best to start a new thread (which I will be following with interest).

My initial plan is that a session will be related to a client, an order to a session, a product to a session but also to a detailed order. That's where things are still fuzzy for me; I want to avoid creating circular relationships. Phew, I've been away from this for TOO long!

I would think a Detail may be associated with a Session, but again, I don't see from what you have said why you would want Product information (as I understand the contents of tblProduct) on an Order. I could see including Session information. I may not understand fully, but I'll toss in the observation anyhow.

For the relationships tables, I am a bit uncertain about how to proceed. I expect you would want a separate table for Children, etc., but I cannot think offhand of the best way to transfer that information to a record in the Client table and still maintain the relationship information. I hope somebody else jumps in on this part of it at least.

tblFamDemo is primarily a means of keeping track of my clients' family names and personal info that would help refresh my memory and allow promotional mailings to be sent. At current it contains only a few fields but I imagine it expanding as I go along. It's a tool for building client relationships and marketing.

I think it makes sense to have a separate table. You could have a Yes/No field to use if a child becomes a client in the future, or something like that.

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In general you will want to create the relationships between the like-named fields, then build a form (frmClient) based on tblClient, and subforms (fsubSession and fsubProduct) based on tblSession and tblProduct. You can drag a subform icon onto a form (fsubProduct onto fsubSession, and fsubSession onto frmClient) in form design view to create a subform. It will probably help if fsubProduct is a Continuous form.

Yeah, I'm not EVEN there yet. I'm sure I'll have plenty of questions when I get to that point though.

Just pointing out the general shape of a possible user interface. I kept in very general because you are clearly still in the planning stages.

That's all I can add for now. I think you're on the right track with the table relationships. I have used form names, etc. because it is easier to refer to names than to descriptions, but of course you will be using whatever names suit you.

Thanks for your help.